

REMARKS

Claims 2-21 were pending in the application. Claims 14-21 have been withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner as pertaining to a non-elected invention, and have been canceled by way of this Amendment & Reply. Claims 2 and 13 have been amended to include the subject matter of claim 8, which has correspondingly been canceled. Claim 9 has been amended and claims 22-31 added to more fully recite features of the present invention. No new matter has been introduced. Thus, claims 2-7, 9-13 and 22-31 are pending for reconsideration at this time.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicant has submitted an Information Disclosure Statement herewith including Japanese References JP 10-174543, JP 11-275827 and JP 2000-14086. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the references, and return a signed PTO form SB/08 to Applicant's representative indicating the same.

Interview Of April 11, 2003

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the interview of April 11, 2003. Applicant has amended claims 2 and 13 to recite each of the positioning projection members being *monolithically integral* with one of the stator support members. Applicant has also added new independent claim 23 reciting each of the positioning projection members being *in contact with* one of the plurality of divided stator cores. The amendment to claims 2 and 13 and new claim 23 are believed to be patentably distinct over the presently cited art in accordance with the agreement reached with the Examiner. These distinctions are discussed in greater detail below.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 2-5, 7 and 9-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,114,784 to Nakano ("Nakano" hereafter). Claims 6 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakano. As noted above, Applicant has amended independent claims 2 and 13 to include the subject matter of claim 8, which has been canceled. Applicant respectfully traverses the pending rejection of independent claims 2 and 13 (including the subject matter of claim 8) as follows.

Nakano fails to disclose or suggest integrally forming the positioning projection members with one of the stator support members as claimed. More specifically, in order to properly control the flow of magnetic flux, the stator cores 5a must be

precisely positioned in the circumferential direction of the rotor machine 1. Hence, by integrally forming the positioning projection members 31 with one of the stator support members 19, 21, the stator cores 5a can be accurately positioned and held in tight contact in the circumferential direction of the rotor machine 1 because they are both positioned and supported by the positioning projection members 31. As a result, the angular distance (i.e., in the circumferential direction) can be precisely controlled, thereby optimizing flow of magnetic flux. Nakano fails to disclose or suggest such a feature.

As Nakano fails to disclose or suggest all of the claimed features, it cannot anticipate the presently claimed invention. Withdrawal of the rejections is earnestly solicited.

New Claims 22-31

New claims 22-31 have been added to more fully recite features of the present invention. Support for new claims 22-31 can be found, for example, in original claims 1-13 and throughout the specificaiton and drawings. New claim 22 is dependent upon claim 2, and is considered to be allowable for at least the aforementioned reasons with respect to claim 2 in addition to the further patentable features recited therein. New claim 23 was discussed during the interview of April 11, 2003 and is believed to be patentably distinct over the cited art. By way of example, Nakano fails to disclose or suggest positioning projection members *in contact with* the stator cores, due to the cooling jackets 80 which surround the bolts 43. Allowance of claims 22-31 is solicited.

Conclusion

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

By



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